

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a fishing reel having a drag mechanism capable of being moved to a drag condition and to a free spool condition, and having the force exerted by said drag mechanism pre-set by turning
5 a knob, the improvement comprising:

a locking means to prevent said knob from accidentally turning during use of said reel, said locking means comprising: a radial surface on said knob; said radial surface having balls retained therein and extending therefrom; a transmitting means juxtaposed to said knob and having
10 a radial surface in opposed relation to the radial surface on said knob; said transmitting means radial surface having depressions therein such that when said balls are engaged with said depressions and when the drag lever is moved to said free spool condition, said knob can be easily rotated, or when said reel is in a drag producing condition, said knob is in a locked non-rotating condition.

2. The reel of claim 1, wherein said reel further comprises at least two spring means capable of applying different axial forces to said transmitting means to force said transmitting means
15 into engagement with said knob.

3. The reel of claim 2 wherein the axial force exerted by one of said spring means when said reel is in said free spool condition is such that the balls and depressions are maintained in contact with one another, while permitting rotation of said knob.

4. The reel of claim 2 wherein the axial force exerted by the other of said spring means
20 when said reel is in said drag condition is such that the balls and depressions are maintained in contact with one another, while preventing rotation of said knob